



Board of County Commissioners

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2023 6:00 PM

Salem County Olde Courthouse, 104 Market Street, Salem, New Jersey

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Director Laury called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

INVOCATION – CFO Kelly Hannigan offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Director Laury led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT REGARDING OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: The Statement was read by Clerk of the Board, Stacy Pennington.

Adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting: By forwarding notice to the South Jersey Times and Elmer Times Co.; and By posting notice on the bulletin board in the Salem County Courthouse and the Fifth Street Office Complex; and By filing notice in the Offices of the Salem County Clerk and the Clerk of the Board all having been done at least 48 hours in advance.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Commissioner	Present	Absent
Director Laury	X	
Deputy Director Ostrum	X	
Commissioner Ramsay	X	
Commissioner Taylor	X	
Commissioner Timmerman	X	

QUORUM 5-0

MINUTES

Dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 4, 2023 Regular Meeting. Minutes are to be received, approved, and recorded in the Minute Book.

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation:

Deputy Director Mickey Ostrum presented the Breast Cancer Awareness Proclamation to five local women who have been affected by breast cancer: Crystal Jamison, Jill Hughes, Jena Locuson, Tarin Shimp, and Melissa Counselor (not present). Deputy Director Ostrum commented that he was privileged to present this proclamation due to his own personal

history with the disease, as his mother passed away from breast cancer. He proclaimed the month of October 2023 to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Salem County and encouraged our fellow citizens to become aware of the impact that breast cancer has on our community and to support the fight against this terrible disease.

PRESENTATION

A special presentation on National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month was given by Melanie Ayars and her daughter, Emma, who has Down Syndrome, on living your best life despite having a disability. October is also Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Melanie and Emma spoke of the challenges and accomplishments in their lives and provided great information, resources and statistics related to employment of those with disabilities and encouraged everyone to support those businesses who hire the disabled.

Commissioner Timmerman presented Melanie and Emma with a National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month Proclamation.

Commissioner Timmerman also welcomed Salem City Mayor Jody Velor to the meeting and he recognized Elmer Times reporter Miranda McCeig and welcomed her back to her first commissioner meeting since a bad car accident she had in September.

CORRESPONDENCE – General and Committee/ Commission Minutes and Reports:

1. Letter for the NJDOT announcing applications for FY2023 Local Freight Impact Fund are being accepted

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

TREASURER’S REPORT

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

A1 Resolution Awarding a Contract for Providing County Re-Entry Coordinators for the Salem County Correctional Facility in the County of Salem

A2 Resolution Authorizing Change Order #1 for Royal Printing Election Materials

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

AGRICULTURAL / PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

B1 Resolution Authorizing an Application to the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for Funding the FFY23 Homeland Security Grant Program

B2 Resolution Accept and Execute a Grant to the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for Funding the FFY23 Homeland Security Grant Program

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman		X	X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/ EDUCATION COMMITTEE

D1 Resolution Approving the Submission of an Application to New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services for Medicare Insurance Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA Grant)

D2 Resolution Acknowledging the Business Agreement from the New Jersey Department of Human Services for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA Grant)

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman	X		X			
Deputy Director Ostrum		X	X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

E1 Resolution for the Removal of a Yield Sign and Installation of a Stop Sign at the Intersection of East Amwellbury Road, County Road #633 and Amwellbury Road, County Road #627 in Elsinboro Township

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay	X		X			
Commissioner Taylor		X	X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum			X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

CHAPTER 159 TO INSERT REVENUE IN THE BUDGET

F1 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of Any Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 Chapter 159, P.L. 1948 – FFY23 Homeland Security Grant Program

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

COMMISSIONER OLD BUSINESS - NONE

COMMISSIONER NEW BUSINESS:

Deputy Director Ostrum and Commissioner Ramsay attended a ribbon cutting for the Mecouch Farm on October 12, 2023. The 133-acre Mecouch farm easement was purchased, taking the New Jersey Farmland Preservation program over the 250,000-acre mark as the 2,847th farm to be preserved through the program. Deputy Director commented that it is great to see the agriculture acknowledged in South Jersey.

Commissioner Ramsay commented on the moving ceremony given for the Kevin Hardin Bridge Dedication on Hawks Bridge Rd held on October 8, 2023. It was nice to see a Gold Star family recognized.

Commissioner Ramsay also commented that the Salem Community Alumni Association is hosting a shoe drive to raise money for _____. They would like to set up a bin for shoe collections at the 5th Street office and will send an email to Stacy asking permission.

COMMISSIONER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Ramsay shared some upcoming events happening around the county.

Date	Event
Various dates	Free flu clinics have started - See attached flyer for dates
Various dates	Holiday Toy and Food drives have started. If you are able, please help out.
Thursday, October 19	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Salem County Women’s Services – Annual Fundraiser Dinner - \$60 per person Maria’s by DiPaolo’s, Penns Grove
Thursday, October 19	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Learn American Sign Language - \$20 per class or \$150/10-Week Course Christian Life Center – 670 S. Broadway, Pennsville
October 20 - 21 October 27 - 28	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Flashlight Corn Maze - \$10 per person Coombs Barnyard - www.coombsbarnyard.com
October 20 – 21 October 27 – 28	8:00 – 10:00 pm Rocky Horror Picture Show Blue Moon Theater - Woodstown

Date	Event
Sunday, October 22 October 29	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Barnyard Bash - \$20 per child Coombs Barnyard - www.coombsbarnyard.com
Saturday, October 21	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Salem County Improvement Authority Household Hazardous Waste Days 286 Welchville Road, Alloway, NJ
Saturday, October 21	8:00 am – 2:00 pm Fall Harvest Craft Fair Benefiting the Woodstown Historical Society Woodstown Moose Lodge – 13 Bypass Road
Saturday, October 21	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Pittsgrove Trunk or Treat Location: Pittsgrove – Green Branch Park
Saturday, October 21	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Fort Mott Park Association Car Show Fort Mott Park, Pennsville
Saturday, October 21	9:00 am Halloween Bake Sale Tractor Supply Co. – Route 45, Pilesgrove
Saturday, October 21	10:00 am – 12:00 pm sign ups First Annual Salem Eagles Fall Bike Run (all vehicles welcome) 232 E. Broadway, Salem benefits Salem County Humane Society
Saturday, October 21	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Witches Brew - \$20 per person, for tickets contact Event by AAUW Salem County NJ Woodstown Friends Meeting
Saturday, October 21	5:30 pm Gypsy (Celebrating the Music of Stevie Nicks & Fleetwood Mac) For Tickets: https://fb.me/e/YiOnLPtX Hosted by Maria's by DiPaolo's – 72 N. Virginia Ave, Penns Grove
October 22 – 28	Brewery Business Hours Brews for the Band – fundraiser Benefits Woodstown Band Boosters Present flyer to server – get flyer at: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=809793044484613&set=a.501719581958629 Farmers and Bankers Brewing
Monday, October 23	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Get to Know Your Candidates https://salemcountychamber.com/get-to-know-your-candidates-october-23/ Hosted by the Salem County Chamber of Commerce Salem Community College - Davidow Hall
Tuesday, October 24 (Every Tuesday)	11:00 am Thai Chi Class First Presbyterian Church of Salem – Church Annex. – 88 Market St, Salem
Tuesday, October 24 (every Tuesday)	5:30 pm Street Rollers Car Cruise Wood Lanes – Route 40, Pilesgrove

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda items or other County Business) Anyone wishing to speak please speak clearly and state your name and address for the record. Each speaker will have FOUR MINUTES to speak. The Clerk of the Board (COB) will keep track of the time for each speaker. When addressing questions concerning personnel issues with the County of Salem no names will be used at any time.

Patty Bomba – Carneys Point – provided a listing of additional upcoming events around the county:

10/19/23 – Flu Clinic
10/21/23 – Clothing Drive – Woman’s Club Penns Grove/Carneys Point
10/22/23 – Foundation to Future – Pennsville Shipyard – Use Code “Future” - Inclusive
10/25/23 – Salem Community College Veterans Dinner
10/27/23 – Chamber of Commerce Leadership Breakfast
10/28/23 – Pocketbook Bingo
11/02/23 – Medal Ceremony
11/04/23 – Heritage Glass Exhibition
11/11/23 – Stand Up For Salem
12/02/23 – Toy Run – Penns Grove VFW

Ms. Bomba also recognized and thanked Stacy Pennington for her work in organizing the bridge dedication on Hawks Bridge Road for Kevin Hardin and his family.

Jody Veler – Salem City Mayor - spoke about her concerns regarding the Juvenile Justice funding, which is funneled through the InterAgency Commission. The funding is not significant. There was an RFP released to apply for grants. The money should be purposely used for juvenile crimes issues and there is a lot of juvenile crime in Salem City. However, most of these funds are going to schools that don’t need it. The funds are being used more for after school programs rather than for more pressing issues like youth gangs, drugs, and crime. So the money ends up supporting school programs that should be more part of the school budget rather than for juvenile justices issues.

A report on crime rates is released every three years from the state. The numbers about the crime rates are what becomes the bases for this RFP. The InterAgency Council and the Youth Services Commission have the numbers but we don’t need to see the numbers to know where the juvenile crime is coming from because anyone who lives in Salem City or Salem County sees it. Mayor Veler feels it is not appropriate to put out this kind of grant when the grant money is not flowing to the actual problem.

Mayor Veler is requesting that the RFP is recalled and have a better conversation on where the money should appropriately be spent.

Commissioner Timmerman asked Mayor Veler what would present a more appropriate use of the money. Mayor Veler responded that better use would be for the RFP to be written specifically to help with youth violence hot spots/interruptions. Unfortunately, when only the schools can apply for the grant money, it eliminates the non-profit organization that works in the cities.

Deputy Director Ostrum asked what was prohibiting these organizations from applying. Mayor Veler responded that the way the RFP is written, it makes the organizations ineligible to apply.

Deputy Director Ostrum also asked about the progress on a State youth employment grant and Mayor Veler commented that the way the grant was written was not helpful or useful since they could not get enough youth to work so they could not make use of the grant money, unfortunately. She also stated she is willing to work with the grant writers to make the grant money usable.

Director Laury commented that they will discuss it further to try to help make better progress.

Gaynel Schneeman - Mannington - provided two additional upcoming events around the county:

10/27/23 – Episcopal Church – Tunes from the Crypt - Free Concert
12/02/23 – Christmas Celebration – Salem Parade, Open House and Yuletide

Gaynel also commented that in the past there has been electronic signage for Ghost Walks that she had organized. She was asked by Music Around the County to help with electronic signage to

promote these events. She submitted paperwork to the county months ago and assumed everything was a go. Stand Up for Salem also approached Gaynel to help with the signage to promote these events as well. When Gaynel followed-up she was told the state does not want the signs on their property and that she needs to find private property to place the signs on. Ginny Ahl, one of the Stand Up for Salem volunteers went to Salem City and received permission from the administrator to place the signs. Gaynel went back to the Public Works building for the county to see about using the signs for the events and was told only three signs are working, and road construction takes precedence. Music Around the County is a voluntary group and cannot afford to rent signs. Director Ben Laury commented that they will speak to the right people and see what they can do.

NEXT MEETING DATE November 1, 2023 at 6:00pm

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION began at 6:56.

G1 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session County of Salem

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

Close Executive Session

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

ADJOURNMENT: 7:36 pm

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Pennington
Clerk of the Board